

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for operating a hearing device in which one of several possible hearing programs ~~can be~~ is selected at a given time in order to adjust to a momentary acoustic surround situation, in that parameters of a transfer function provided between a microphone and a hearer ~~can be~~ are changed, whereas the parameters to be changed according to the hearing program switching are adjusted from a momentary value to a desired value in a smooth manner in response to a switching state value in order to provide a smooth transition from one hearing program to another by initiating ~~an automatic~~ a time-based transition ~~in response to said momentary acoustic surround situation and performing said transition independently of said situation.~~

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value is extended over a given time range.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value corresponds to a step response of a low-pass filter.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value corresponds to a step response of a low-pass filter.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value is generated using a ramp generator.

6. (original) The method according to claim 2, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value is generated using a ramp generator.

7. (original) The method according to claim 1, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

8. (original) The method according to claim 2, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

9. (original) The method according to claim 3, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

10. (original) The method according to claim 4, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

11. (original) The method according to claim 5, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

12. (original) The method according to claim 6, whereas the momentary acoustic

surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

13. (original) The method according to claim 1, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

14. (original) The method according to claim 2, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

15. (original) The method according to claim 3, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

16. (original) The method according to claim 4, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

17. (original) The method according to claim 5, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

18. (original) The method according to claim 6, whereas a hearing program is

selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

19. (original) The method according to one of the claims 1 to 18, whereas one or several of the following parameters are used:

- maximum attenuation;
- width of registration;
- amplification;
- compression;
- scaling;
- operating point of a noise suppression unit;
- time constant of the compression;
- compression knee point;
- limiter;
- operating point of the suppression unit for the signal feedback;
- operating point of a recognition unit of the acoustic surrounding.

20. (currently amended) A hearing device, whereas at least one smooth transition filter unit is provided which filter unit generates ~~automatic-smooth~~ time-based transitions of parameters which are affected by hearing program switching in response to a switching state value, in that values of the parameters to be changed by a hearing program switching are passed through the filter unit in order to obtain a smooth transition from a momentary to a desired parameter value, ~~the transition being initiated by the momentary acoustic surround situation and the transition being performed independently of said situation.~~

21. (previously presented) The hearing device according to claim 20, whereas the filter unit features low-pass characteristics.

22. (previously presented) The hearing device according to claim 20, whereas the filter unit comprises a ramp generator.

23. (previously presented) The hearing device according to one of the claims 20 to 22, whereas an oversteer unit is provided which is operationally connected to the output signal of means to form a smooth transition.

24. (currently amended) A method for operating a hearing device in which one of several possible hearing programs ~~can be~~ is selected at a given time ~~to adjust to a momentary acoustic surround situation in response to a switching state value~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a microphone;

providing transfer functions between the microphone and a hearer, the transfer functions having parameters and corresponding with the programs;

initiating a change in at least one of the parameters in response to said ~~momentary acoustic surround situation~~ switching state value from a momentary value to a desired value ~~in an automatic smooth time-based manner independently of said momentary acoustic surround situation in order to provide a smooth transition from one hearing program to another.~~